Title: Requests the central government to increase the import duty on rubber and also on polyurethene to stop the indiscriminate import and to save the farmers.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister towards an issue relating to the farmers who are cultivating rubber. Earlier also, this issue has come before the Government many a time. I think about 50 Members of this House sat on dharnas when the House commenced its sitting. The issue continues till now. I urge upon the Finance Minister to increase the import duty on rubber from Rs. 20 at present to Rs.25 or Rs.30. And also on polyurethene, which is imported in large quantities, the duty should be increased from Rs.30 at present to Rs.35 or Rs.40 so that indiscriminate import can be stopped and farmers are saved to some extent. I would also like to say that the export and import policies should be shaped in such a way that rubber is placed in the negative list of import because we have adequate amount of natural rubber in this country and the farmers are in doldrums.